

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
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 Masao Ikeda) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
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Application No.: Not Yet Assigned) Express Mail Label No. EV 328246660 US
) Date of Deposit: December 1, 2003
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))
) Antonietta Musto
)

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 1.53(b)

Dear Sir:

The above-identified application is a continuation of Application No. 09/783,914 filed February 15, 2001. Please amend the instant application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following paragraphs on page 1 after the title:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/783,914, filed on February 15, 2001, and claims priority to Japanese Application No. P2000-041361 filed on February 15, 2000, both of which are incorporated herein by reference to the extent permitted by law.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute claims 1-29 with the following: